

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: MOORER PRESS CONFERENCE

ANKARA FOR BENSON

REF: ANKARA 4687

AS REQUESTED, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF JUNE 13 MOORER
PRESS CONFERENCE DIRECTLY RELATED TO TURKEY OR GREECE:

Q. THERE IS A MOVE IN CONGRESS TO CUT DOWN THE MILITARY AID TO
TURKEY BECAUSE TURKEY WANTS TO START PLANTING OPIUM. DO YOU
THINK IT IS WISE FOR CONGRESS TO CUT MILITARY AID (INAUDIBLE
PHRASE)?

ADMIRAL MOORER: I THINK THAT YOU WILL FIND, AS YOU SAY, CERTAIN
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT WILL QUESTION THE AID PROGRAM IN LIGHT
OF THIS POSSIBILITY. I DON'T THINK IT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN MOVED
FORWARD YET BUT IT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. NATURALLY,
IN A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT YOU HAVE PEOPLE
THAT FORM THEIR OPINIONS BASED ON A MULTITUDE OF INPUTS
WITH THIS BEING ONE. SO FAR AS
TURKEY IS CONCERNED, I THINK THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THE FACT
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THAT IT CONSTITUTES A VITAL PART OF THE DEFENSE OF THE ALLIANCE
IN A STRATEGIC SENSE. THE TURKS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN
OUTSTANDING FIGHTERS, AND WE IN THE PENTAGON--I DON'T
LIKE TO USE THAT TERM BECAUSE I NEVER HAVE FOUND OUT JUST WHO

I WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN I SAID THE PENTAGON--IN ANY EVENT, THOSE OF US WHO TESTIFY FOR THE PROGRAM OF COURSE HAVE BEEN STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE TURKISH PROGRAM.

Q. ARE YOU AGAINST CUTTING THE MILITARY AID?

ADMIRAL MOORER: I AM DEFINITELY AGAINST IT.

Q. I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO GREECE--WHAT IS THE RELATION WITH GREECE? YOU HAVE A FEW BASES THERE AND THERE IS SOME QUESTION YOU WANT TO SHUT DOWN SOME (INAUDIBLE PHRASE)...YOU HAVE A PLAN OF STARTING A NEW ONE...(INAUDIBLE PHRASE.) WILL YOU HAVE MORE BASES IN GREECE? THE SECOND QUESTION IS: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE TWO COUNTRIES STARTING AN ARMS RACE? WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THAT?

ADMIRAL MOORER: I THINK THAT I WILL JUST MAKE A GENERAL STATEMENT. SO FAR AS THE OPERATIONS OF US FORCES, PRIMARILY THE SIXTH FLEET, OUT OF THE PORTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN INCLUDING GREECE, WE HAVE HAD NO CHANGES I'M AWARE OF IN RECENT MONTHS. WE DO HAVE SOME SHIPS HOMEPORTED IN GREECE AND THEY WILL, SO FAR AS I KNOW, CONTINUE TO BE HOME-PORTED THERE. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY PLAN TO CHANGE THEM. SO FAR AS THE SECOND QUESTION IS CONCERNED OF COURSE I THINK ANY TIME YOU HAVE A DIFFERENCE EXISTING BETWEEN TWO NATO NATIONS WHICH RESULTS IN ANY KIND OF DIFFICULTY, THE OVERALL EFFECT IS TO WEAKEN, IF YOU WILL, OR REDUCE THE COHESION AND THE COMBINED STRENGTH OF THE ALLIANCE. I DON'T CARE WHETHER IT'S BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY OR BETWEEN ANY OTHER TWO NATIONS. I DON'T LIKE TO SEE IT.
GOODBY

UNCLASSIFIED

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